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MI 730 Biblical Theology of Mission

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Asbury Theological Seminary
 Spring Semester, 2003
 Thursdays, 8:00-10:45 a.m., SH404

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MI 730. BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MISSION

DESCRIPTION

A study of principal texts in the Old and New Testaments dealing with mission, evangelism, discipling and renewal, with attention to relevant scholarly debate regarding their significance. 3 hours.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study Scripture so that mission is based primarily in God's self-revelation.
2. To appreciate the whole biblical canon as significant for a biblical theology of mission.
3. To discern from Scripture both theological truths and practical models for mission.
4. To develop a biblical hermeneutic for cross-cultural mission.
5. To better understand the church as a missionary community.
6. To demonstrate the value of inductive study of Scripture for mission, evangelism, and discipling.

COURSE METHOD

Direct study of Scripture will be the primary focus of the course. This will be supplemented by assigned reading. Class sessions will be devoted mostly to the study of particular biblical passages, plus discussion of readings and some lecture material.

We will follow the schedule indicated below. Normally there will be a break from about 9:00 to 9:15.

TEXTS

The Bible. NRSV or NIV preferred.

Let the Earth Rejoice: A Biblical Theology of Holistic Mission, by William Dyrness. Wipf & Stock, 1998.

Images of the Church in Mission, by John Driver. Herald Press, 1997.

Slaves, Women and Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis, by William J. Webb. InterVarsity, 2001.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Kingdom, Church, and World, by Howard A. Snyder. Wipf & Stock, 2002.

The Biblical Foundations for Mission, by Donald Senior and Carroll Stuhlmueller. Orbis, 1983.

Reflecting God Study Bible (NIV). Zondervan, 2000.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation in all class sessions, including taking an active, informed part in discussion.
2. Completion of readings and written assignments, as listed in the Class Schedule. For each class session, read first the listed Scriptures, then the assigned secondary reading. Note that there are three short written assignments, as indicated in the schedule.
3. A book report comparing and contrasting the views and hermeneutical approach and understanding of mission of any two of the following books. Due April 3.

H. D. Beeby, *Canon and Mission*

Ion Bria, ed., *Go Forth in Peace: Orthodox Perspectives on Mission*
 Francis M. DuBose, *God Who Sends*
 Donald Senior and Carroll Stuhlmueller, *The Biblical Foundations for Mission*
 E. Stanley Jones, *Is the Kingdom of God Realism?*
 Köstenberger and O'Brien, *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth*
 Larkin and Williams, eds., *Mission in the New Testament: An Evangelical Approach*
 Günter Krallmann, *Mentoring for Mission*
 C. René Padilla, *Mission Between the Times*
 Clark C. Pinnock, *A Wideness in God's Mercy*
 Senior and Stuhlmueller, *The Biblical Foundations for Mission*
 Wilbert Shenk, ed., *The Transfiguration of Mission*
 Howard A. Snyder, *Liberating the Church: The Ecology of Church and Kingdom*
 Gailyn van Rhee, *Missions: Biblical Foundations and Contemporary Strategies*
 John Howard Yoder, *For the Nations*

4. A research paper delineating your own biblical theology of mission (20-30 pages). This should be based primarily on your own study of Scripture, though you may use secondary sources as relevant. Scripture references should be given in-text; for secondary works, use reference notes and bibliography.

Suggested methodologies: Trace a particular theme, or set of themes, through Scripture; or examine the theology of mission in up to four biblical books (including at least one O.T. book).

Some questions you may want to consider as you develop your paper: What key texts and/or hermeneutical approach will I use? What is God's intent for people, the nations (or culture), and the creation? How are we to understand the central significance of God's revelation through Jesus Christ? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in mission? In what sense is the church a missionary community? (You do not need to respond specifically to these questions, but such questions should inform the development of the biblical basis for your paper.)

The research paper is due May 15 but may be submitted earlier.

5. A take-home final exam consisting of three essay questions covering material studied during the course. The exam will be given out during the final class session and will be due in the ESJ School Office by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 22.

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PAPER

1. You may use either the anthropological style (recommended by the ESJ School) or the Chicago/Turabian style, but be consistent. The paper must be computer-printed, and should include appropriate documentation of sources cited or consulted. (See "Academic Writing in the ESJ School," available as a hand-out from the ESJ School Office.)

2. Attach a title page giving the paper's title, your name and SPO number (or off-campus address), course name and number, professor's name, and date. Staple in upper left-hand corner. Please do not use a cover or binder. (I may later request a second clean copy of your paper for my files.)

3. The paper should be at least 20 pages, and not more than 30. The grade will depend on the content, development of the argument, and evidence of adequate *biblical* research, not length.

4. The paper should contain no spelling errors. Use a spell-checker.

5. Please avoid these common mistakes:

Improper or incomplete footnote/endnote style or bibliographic entry style

Improperly placed (for U.S. English) quotation marks:

Correct: "mission."

Incorrect: "mission".

CLASS SCHEDULE

- February 13: Introduction
 Study of Jonah
 The “Economy” of God
Required reading: Book of Jonah; Dyrness, 3-27
- February 20: Universal History: Creation, Culture, the Nations (Genesis 1-11)
Required reading: Driver, 8-35, 96-108; Dyrness, 28-46; Webb, 13-29
Recommended reading: Senior & StuhlmueLLer, xi-54
- February 27: The Call of Abraham and the Nations (Genesis 12-28)
Required reading: Driver, 46-67; Dyrness, 47-53; Webb, 30-70
Recommended reading: Snyder, *KCW*, 9-35; Senior & StuhlmueLLer, 55-82
- March 6: Exodus and the Law (Ex. 1-40, Lev. 25-26, Amos 3, Deut. 18, Hos. 2, Isa. 61)
Required reading: Driver, 68-81; Dyrness, 55-80; Webb, 73-105
Recommended reading: Snyder, *KCW*, 59-74; Senior & StuhlmueLLer, 83-138
*Written assignment: What is the missional significance today of the call of Abraham? (3-5 pages)
- March 13: The Monarchy (1 Sam. 8-9, 1 Kgs. 8, Isa. 2, 9, 11, 25; Mic. 4-5, Zech. 8-9, Mal. 1)
Required reading: Driver, 84-95; Dyrness, 81-117; Webb, 105-22
Recommended reading: Snyder, *KCW*, 37-50; Senior & StuhlmueLLer, 141-60
- March 20: The Promised Messiah (Isa. 40-66, Ezek. 36-37, Dan. 7)
Required reading: Driver, 109-23; Dyrness, 118-24; Webb, 123-52
Recommended reading: Snyder, *KCW*, 51-58, 74-76; Senior & StuhlmueLLer, 161-210
- March 27: Jesus Christ: Turning Point of History (Lk. 1-2, Jn. 1, Eph. 1, Col. 1, Hebrews)
Required reading: Driver, 126-52; Dyrness, 125-38; David Thompson, “Women, Men, Slaves and the Bible: Hermeneutical Inquiries,” *Christian Scholar’s Review* (March, 1996), 25/3:326-49 (on reserve).
Recommended reading: Senior & StuhlmueLLer, 211-54
*Written assignment: What key missiological themes emerge from Luke 1-2, John 1, Eph. 1, Col. 1, and Hebrews 1? (2-5 pages)
- April 3: The Kingdom of God (Matthew, Mark, Lk. 4, Rev. 4-7)
Required reading: Driver, 153-67; Dyrness, 139-53; Webb 152-84
Recommended reading: Snyder, *KCW*, 79-93; Senior & StuhlmueLLer, 255-79
- April 10: [NO CLASS – Reading Week]
- April 17: [NO CLASS]
- April 24: The Missional Community (Mt. 28, Lk. 12-14, 24; Acts, Rom. 12, Eph. 2-6)
Required reading: Driver, 170-81; Dyrness, 154-71; Webb, 185-206
Recommended reading: Senior & StuhlmueLLer, 280-96
*Written assignment: What is the relationship between the church and the Kingdom of God? (3-5 pages)
- May 1: Redemptive Community and Culture (1 Cor., Colossians, Heb. 12-13)
Required reading: Driver, 36-44; Webb, 209-35

Recommended reading: Snyder, *KCW*, 95-120; Orlando Costas, *Christ Outside the Gate*

May 8: Sin, Salvation, and Mission (John, Romans, James, 1 John)
Required reading: Driver, 182-207; Dyrness, 172-84; Webb, 236-44
Recommended reading: Senior & Stuhlmueeller, 297-312

May 15: Final Judgment and Restoration (Mt. 24-25, Mk. 16, Acts 3, Revelation)
Required reading: Driver, 210-28; Dyrness, 185-98; Webb, 245-56
Recommended reading: Senior & Stuhlmueeller, 315-48

Monday, May 19 (8:00-10:30): Review and Summary [Note change of day – Exam Week]
Recommended reading: Webb, 257-78

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